

CONGRATULATIONS TO LIBRADA
PAYAN

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 101st birthday of Mrs. Librada Payan of El Paso, Texas.

A beloved mother of 7 children, 30 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, and several more great-great grandchildren, Mrs. Payan is known for her cheerful outlook and devotion to her beloved family.

Mrs. Payan was born in 1915, and moved to the El Paso area in 1918. She was happily married to the love of her life for over 65 years. She never ceases to be amazed at the changes of the world around her, and greets each day with an enthusiasm that eludes even the most optimistic of people.

On behalf of the Twenty-Third Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Librada Payan on turning 101 years old, and may she celebrate many more.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. JAMES H. BILLINGTON

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the accomplishments of James H. Billington as founding chairman of the Open World Leadership Center in Washington, DC, in recognition of his retirement in September 2015.

James H. Billington served as the 13th Librarian of Congress from 1987 until his retirement in 2015.

"Jim", a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is an accomplished author, scholar, educator, and administrator and has earned the respect and admiration of his students, colleagues, peers, and fellow Trustees.

Librarian Billington earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Princeton University in 1950 and a doctorate from Balliol College, Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

After serving with the United States Army and in the Office of National Estimates, Mr. Billington taught history at Harvard University from 1957 to 1962 and subsequently at Princeton University where he was professor of history from 1964 to 1973.

James H. Billington became director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in September 1973, an institution created by the United States Congress in 1968 as a living memorial to the 28th President. He grew the Woodrow Wilson Center International Center for Scholars allowing American and invited foreign scholars to spend time reflecting on issues central to understanding a complex world.

He then helped create the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies in 1974, believing that the relationship with the Soviet Union was America's most important international challenge.

As a scholar of Russian history and culture, Dr. Billington has accompanied 10 congres-

sional delegations to Russia and the former Soviet Union, and joined President Reagan at the summit meeting in June, 1988.

On September 14, 1987, Professor Billington was sworn in as the 13th Librarian of Congress where he oversaw the largest collection of books, maps, photographs, recordings, and motion pictures in the world.

Dr. Billington is the author of *Mikhailovsky and Russian Populism* (1956), *The Icon and the Axe* (1966), *Fire in the Minds of Men* (1980), *Russia Transformed: Breakthrough to Hope*, August 1991 (1992), *The Face of Russia* (1998)—a companion book to the three-part television series of the same name, which he wrote and narrated for the Public Broadcasting Service, and *Russia in Search of Itself* (2004), books translated and published in a variety of languages.

James H. Billington has received over 40 honorary doctorates—including from the University of Tbilisi in Georgia (1999), the Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow (2001), and the University of Oxford (2002), has been awarded the Woodrow Wilson Award from Princeton University (1992), the UCLA Medal (1999), the Pushkin Medal of the International Association of the Teachers of Russian Language and Culture (2000), the Karamzin Prize (2005) from the Foreign Literature Library in Moscow, the Likhachev Prize (2006) from the Likhachev Foundation in St. Petersburg, the inaugural Lafayette Prize by the French-American Cultural Foundation, the EastWest Institute Outstanding Leadership Award, and the Presidential Citizens Medal by President Bush in 2008.

Dr. Billington is a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He was decorated as Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters and as Chevalier of the Legion of Honor by the President of France, as Commander of the National Order of the Southern Cross of Brazil, the Order of Merit of Italy, a Knight Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit by the Federal Republic of Germany, the Gwanghwa Medal by the Republic of Korea, the Chingiz Aitmatov Gold Medal by the Kyrgyz Republic and the Order of Friendship by the President of the Russian Federation; the highest state order that a foreign citizen may receive.

Dr. Billington will continue to study and write on important Russian-American issues, after retiring as the second-longest-serving Librarian of Congress, and as Founding Chairman of the Open World Leadership Center.

It is fitting that the United States Congress recognize his deeds throughout his 28 years of service as Librarian of Congress and the accomplishments and achievements of James H. Billington as founding Chairman of the Open World Leadership Center throughout his 16 years of service.

HONORING DR. JAMES BILLINGTON

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate and thank Dr. James Billington upon completion of his 42 years of distinguished public service, culminating in 28 years as the 13th Librarian of Congress. He

presided over a doubling of the Library's holdings and a major enhancement of the Library's role in American cultural life.

Dr. Billington, a Rhodes Scholar and a distinguished expert on Russia, began his career as a professor of history at Harvard University and Princeton University. He served as director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and helped found the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies before coming to the Library of Congress in 1987.

Dr. Billington recognized that the Library must be a great public asset, an educational resource for all Americans, not just for academics and Members of Congress. He set about digitizing many of the Library's collections and arranging the purchase and display of dozens of important relics that had long been hidden from public view. He also created the National Book Festival, which has brought hundreds of thousands of book lovers to Washington to celebrate our literary history.

As a Member of Congress and a leader of the House Democracy Partnership (HDP), I have particularly appreciated Dr. Billington's application of his background as a scholar of Russia and his extensive international experience to the establishment of the Open World Leadership Center, a unique legislative branch initiative that has brought some 24,000 young leaders from post-Soviet states to the U.S. for intensive exposure to our people and community life. I have enjoyed hosting these delegations in North Carolina, parliamentary colleagues but also teachers, doctors, provincial leaders, and others from all walks of life.

The Library and the Congressional Research Service (CRS) have also been invaluable in HDP's outreach to parliaments in democratizing countries, helping build their staff, research, and IT capabilities. This work began with the Frost-Solomon Task Force in the early 1990s, when post-communist states faced the challenge of equipping and operating modern parliaments. It has continued over the past decade as HDP has helped establish research facilities and personnel, with the help of CRS, in countries ranging from Liberia to Afghanistan to Timor-Leste.

I congratulate Dr. Billington on his historic career, and I wish him and his family the very best for a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING TERRY'S HOUSE AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Terry's House, a hospitality home dedicated to providing affordable and convenient lodging for families of patients in critical care units at the Community Regional Medical Center. This year Terry's House is celebrating its five year anniversary of continuous service in Downtown Fresno, California. Since its inception in 2011, Terry's House has served over 3,600 families, from forty-two states and twenty-three countries around the world. Operating solely on donations, Terry's House has been made possible by the generosity of the community, and it is their hope that they may continue to assist families of those in critical care for many years to come.

This residential facility is named in honor of Terry Richards who suffered and survived a serious trauma at the age of five when he was injured in a car accident. For nearly five months, his mother, Marie Richards traveled nearly 80 miles a day to see her son while he was recovering in the hospital. Her story was the story of many people before Terry's House opened its doors. Many families had to seek accommodations miles from the hospital, and many who couldn't afford lodging slept in waiting rooms, in their cars, or had to try their best to find a spot in a busy hospital. Often, patients' loved ones had no alternative but to leave the hospital and make the long drive home. Terry's House addresses this need, and has provided families with a home away from home, while their love ones receive care.

Terry's House is situated on 17,000 square feet and features two stories of living quarters located across the street from the Community Regional Medical Center, so families can visit their loved ones daily. The twenty hotel and suite style rooms at Terry's House have a capacity of up to four individuals and feature various amenities, including balcony seating areas, in-room refrigerators, access to adjoining rooms for increased capacity, and various common areas including a kitchen, dining area, laundry facility, and children's play room.

Terry's House was made possible by the tireless work of Terry Richards's brother, Tom Richards, a local community developer and CEO of the Penstar Group. With the dedication of Tom Richards, Leta Ciavaglia, Christa Short, the Terry's House Development Council, the Community Regional Medical Center Foundation and many generous members of the community, a family dream has become a reality.

The sustainability of Terry's House is entirely dependent on private gifts, contributions from generous individuals, and organizations. More than \$5 million was raised to initially build and furnish the home. In addition to generous gifts from Tom Richards and Bank of America, a large number of in-kind donations also continue to assist in sustaining the ongoing operations of the home. Terry's House has been fortunate enough to receive staffing support from the Community Medical Centers. To minimize costs, volunteers generously perform many of the daily operations of the home.

Mr. Speaker, for the last five years, Terry's House has had the privilege and responsibility of housing families as they face some of the most difficult days of their lives. Terry's House has been there for them, and will continue to be there thanks to the generosity and support of our community. Through their selfless service, Terry's House has made an immense difference in the lives of so many individuals, and it is important that we recognize them for all that they have done and will continue to do for years to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HELEN FORBRICH

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 103rd birthday of Helen Virginia Forbrich, of San Antonio, Texas.

Helen was born in Adkins, Texas on February 25th, 1913. She was married to the love of her life for 45 years. She had 4 wonderful children, and 4 grandchildren. She has always enjoyed cooking and is known for her home-made biscuits. In 1921, at the age of 8, she began the life-long habit of drinking four ounces of red wine every night before bed, which her family attributes to her wonderful longevity.

On behalf of the Twenty-third Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Helen Virginia Forbrich on turning 103 years old, and may she celebrate many more.

RECOGNIZING HARRY BOWEN AS VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MARTHA MCSALLY

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Harry Bowen, a veteran from Sierra Vista who was recently selected as the Veteran of the Year by the Greater Sierra Vista Area United Veterans' Council. Mr. Bowen has continued the proud tradition of service to our country long after leaving the military.

Mr. Bowen served in the United States Army during Vietnam and retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 3. After his service in the Army, Mr. Bowen has actively served in the Military Officers Association of America in many capacities including as the Employer Support to the Guard and Reserve Outreach coordinator who works to educate companies on the benefits of hiring veterans as employees. He is also active in the Warrant Officers' Association, and the American Legion Post 52.

Recently, Mr. Bowen joined the Cochise Serving Veterans Committee—as a founding member—to aid in helping homeless and at-risk veterans in Cochise County. He has served on the board for the Cochise County Stand-down event for two years and his involvement is credited with making the Cochise County Stand-down the largest event of its kind in Southern Arizona.

The extent of Mr. Bowen's service and civic involvement is not limited to Veteran Service Organizations. He has also served the Kiwanis club in several capacities since 1993, and has led the American Cancer Society Relay for Life event in Sierra Vista for 9 years.

To quote his friend, "It is clear he does not perform his duties or take on these leadership roles for any kind of recognition, but for the love of service to his fellow veterans and countrymen." Harry Bowen is an excellent representative of the veterans of Southeastern Arizona who have continued to exemplify the time-honored values at the core of our military: duty, service, and an abiding commitment to a cause greater than any one individual. Congratulations to Mr. Bowen for being selected as Veteran of the Year, a well-deserved honor.

IN RECOGNITION OF BOB CHERECK

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of an outstanding Texan, Robert A. Chereck, as he recently concluded his distinguished work as the long-term Chairman of the Board for the Children's Health Systems of Texas (CHST) in Dallas. While serving as Chairman for the Children's Health Systems of Texas, Mr. Chereck also served as the Executive Chairman and President/CEO of Southwest Securities FSB and previously served as the Executive Vice President of Wells Fargo Bank.

The Children's Health Systems of Texas' original location is in Dallas and has now grown to include the several other specialty and pediatric care centers located throughout North Texas. The Children's Health Systems of Texas remains the seventh largest pediatric health care provider in the country—receiving more than 760,000 patients annually and performing more than 26,588 surgeries at its two full-service campuses in Dallas and Plano. The Dallas campus serves as the main campus as well as the only academic healthcare system in the Dallas-Fort Worth area dedicated solely to the comprehensive care of children from birth to age 18. Children's Health has also been recognized as (1) one of the most connected hospitals in the nation for its excellence in patient safety, patient engagement and clinical connectedness; (2) one of only six STS three-star designations for congenital heart surgery; (3) a Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit—the highest qualification for such programs; and (4) a Level 1 Trauma Center for pediatric care.

I have seen the power of the Children's Health System of Texas as both a Member of Congress and as the father of a patient. Our region is blessed to have the resources and expertise of the CHST medical professionals and staff available to meet the needs of our children. So much of the CHST success story is due to the involved engagement of civic leaders like Bob Chereck. Together, those leaders have ensured the children of our region would never have to leave home to have the best possible medical care.

I have personally had the opportunity to work with Mr. Chereck over the years in Dallas on a number of issues important to our community, region and state. Besides serving as Chairman of the Board at CHST, Bob has served as Chairman of the Dallas Regional Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Dallas Citizens Council, a member of the Downtown Dallas Association Board, the Youth Services Council, and a number of initiatives at his beloved University of Texas. Over the years, my work with Bob via any number of these organizations has forged a strong bond and friendship with both Bob and his wife Donna.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in wishing Bob and Donna Chereck all the best in their future endeavors.